Wade probing police case for violations

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Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said Saturday he will investigate for criminal violations the findings of an internal probe into the Dallas police narcotics section.

He also said he would dismiss any cases filed by officers where there was any doubt to preserve the confidence of juries in both the police and the district attorney's office.

At the center of Wade's probe will be two incidents in which the findings show officers mixed narcotics they had in their possession with substances obtained from suspects so cases could be filed against the suspects.

One officer, Patrolman F. T. Young, purchased a substance he believed to be narcotics from suspects, discovered the substance was not illegal, then mixed his own narcotics into it, Police Chief Don Byrd said.

Arrests warrants were issued against two persons who were never jailed, he said. The warrants were withdrawn on Byrd's orders before he announced the findings.

Byrd suspended Young without pay for 30 days, describing him as an "outstanding" officer in all other areas.

Wade, who will meet with police officials to discuss the findings Monday, called the policemen's actions "reprehensible if it happened."

"I can't think of anything worse," he said.

Wade said the purpose of his meeting with narcotics officials was to find out all the facts involved.

He said that where there was any doubt as to the validity of a case he would have it dismissed. Byrd said he let alone reasonable doubt, we're going to dismiss the case.

"We're going to lean over backwards to dismiss cases.

"The cases—whether there's 10 or 50—are not as important as having the people who serve on juries have confidence in the police and our office."

Four Dallas police officers were disciplined and most of about 20 others in the narcotics section have requested transfers in the wake of the massive internal investigation.

The punishments, which were handed down by Byrd Thursday, ranged from Young's temporary suspension to written reprimands for three other officers.

One of those three, Patrolman Garland O. Smith, told investigators that while he was working under the direction of another officer he filled some half-empty capsules of narcotics with an unknown substance to replace the amount removed for testing by an informant, Byrd said.

Byrd said he did not severely discipline Smith "because he was working under the supervision of another officer."

The other officer, E. R. "Rex" Reynolds, resigned from the force while under investigation for the disappearance of 8.7 ounces of suspected high-grade heroin seized a year earlier.

Reynolds said he retained the substance in his personal locker against police regulations and then later flushed it down a commode at City Hall during a separate, unrelated probe. The total seizure was reported to be the second largest heroin haul in